



August Meeting

Friday, August 15
8:00 PM

**Our Savior's Lutheran
Church**
1035 Carol Lane
Lafayette, CA

The speakers this month will be Barry Winkler, KC6WYA, and Sam Lipson, KO6JR. The topic will be packet and APRS.

Presidential QRM

By Sam Lipson, KO6JR

August is upon us and the year is passing very quickly. There is never enough time to get everything done which needs to get done (let alone what you want to do). Our next event is the Auction in September, but we all must not forget that Pacificon looms right behind the auction in October. Things are moving at a very quick pace in the Pacificon committee and helping hands are always welcome. Contact Greg, KE6VTA or Sylvia, KC6YJV to help.

I guess I should have started with this item — We have a contract with Diablo Communications. Thanks especially to Keith, N6PMF, Dick, KT6X and Dick, AA6DL for all of their efforts in working with Diablo Communications to get to this point. I also know that there were many others involved in getting this contract, but Keith, Dick and Dick took the lead and successfully completed the task. Our next task is to get the antennas up on the tower. We are already working with tower climbers and Diablo Communications and I hope to be able to report that the systems are all up and running by the next newsletter.

The nominating committee — Lauren, WA6CIE, Jim, KC6SOE and Bruce, KC6JMN — are actively recruiting club members to serve on the Board and on the Rocky Ridge Steering committee. If you would like to serve, pending election, please contact one of these individuals.

Wishing you all good propagation ...

73,
Sam

...At Your Service

By Charles Arthur, AC6WU

I listened to the apologies for Field Day during the last meeting and the excuses for what was considered a poor showing. I listened intently. I cannot say that I agree. I think the event was a success. What an education! We could not have had a better experience to show us that emergency preparedness is needed right here at MDARC.

I wrote recently about a change of attitude that some may need to make to better themselves as radio operators. Here was a fine example of what I referred to. This was the first Field Day I have attended albeit I was only there for a short time and not much help. I did have time to notice though that many things seemed to go wrong. Just as many seemed to go right, however. All I heard about at the July meeting was the many times "Murphy" seemed to visit. I'm sorry that more emphasis wasn't placed on the things that went right. Here is where a change of attitude is needed.

If this were an emergency situation, apologies might be in order. It wasn't, though, and the attitudes that presented themselves at the site were commendable. No apologies need be made by anyone! When an antenna didn't do the job, a ham built a new one. When a radio wasn't performing as well as expected, a ham checked and trouble-shot the station. He made it work.

Those who threw a bunch of stuff in their car the night before, hoping to have everything they would need were quickly disappointed. The hams that began preparing weeks earlier were rewarded. It all seemed so simple. We all know the weather conditions on the mountain yet there were a number of tents blown around. Many complained about the cold. Where was the survival kit that I wrote about last January, or the preparedness I wrote about last December? It seems that we have a number of things to work on yet, doesn't it? Did you know that personal gear (sleeping bag, tent,

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Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club W6CX

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The Carrier is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and space is available.

All material must be submitted to the editor by the first of day of the month of publication. Material is accepted on a first-in, first-out basis. Articles and other material may be submitted via Internet email to w6uv@wco.com (preferred), or delivered to the editor at the address listed below. Material will be accepted in plain ASCII, Word for Windows, or WordPerfect format. Material may also be submitted as hardcopy.

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From the RRRG

By Jim Brunk, Chairman

The Contract is Signed!

The RRRG negotiation committee has accomplished a major goal. The contract between the Club and Diablo Communications is signed. Thanks to Dick Brown, KT6X, and Keith Lattin, N6PMF. These two with help from Dick Schulze, AA6DL, concluded the process just prior to the July MDARC meeting. The last sticking point was the proposed six percent increase in lease fees upon renewal. This was negotiated to a three percent increase. The contract was ratified at the July general MDARC meeting and takes effect in August.

To recap the contract, it provides for space and electricity in the main repeater building and on the tower for our four repeaters. The tower positions will be higher than those we occupied before the old tower went down. We would be sharing a maximum of four rack spaces in the main building with three other ham groups. We are also required to share some antennas and feed lines through combining systems. Our repeaters will require one and one half racks. The lease fee for this space would be \$450 per month, which is up from \$132 per month. The annual rate increase is 3%. Diablo Communications has agreed to not charge the hams for the space required for the combining equipment.

Technical Committee is Poised to Move

Barry Winkler, KC6WYA, and the technical committee are making plans to move the repeaters from the old location in the container to the main building. Keith has talked with the tower climbers and has reserved time with them. The orders for the tower and antenna hardware are being placed. With the various lead times, it looks like the new installation will be up and running somewhere between the end of August to the middle of September. (Now that I've said that, don't let Murphy hear!)

What's Left to Do?

The major impact of all this activity is financial. The lease fee increase necessitates a new look in to the way RRRG and MDARC fund the repeater activities. The club has expressed its support for the repeaters by agreeing to pay the difference in the lease fee. However a long term solution needs to be put into place.

There will be a joint RRRG Steering committee and MDARC Board meeting on Monday August 4th to discuss the possible methods to fund the repeaters. There have been several proposals mentioned to address the issue. All ideas will be entertained and discussed with the most viable ones brought to the club at a general meeting for general discussion and approval.

Answer to this Month's Questions

There were no questions submitted this month.

Questions may be sent to brunk@ix.netcom.com or the designlink BBS addressed to Jim L. Brunk or dropped in the MDARC suggestion box. All questions must be signed.

Call for Articles

Tired of reading the same old stuff in the Carrier every month? Well I am! How about warming up the old word processor and cranking out an article or two? It's not difficult, and if you're worried about your writing style or command of the language, don't worry. I can clean up your spelling and grammar, if necessary, so get busy!

Your articles don't have to be technical in nature. In fact, amusing anecdotes and personal experiences make better reading anyway.

As editor, I read several newsletters from other local clubs. Most of these clubs have fewer than 1/10 the members MDARC has, yet their newsletters always have far more member-contributed articles!

Mid 1997 Financial Status

By Greg Estep KE6VTA

Income	Actual	Budget
Auction	973	973
Interest	169	150
Membership dues	7311	7800
Total Income	8453	8923
Expense		
Carrier	3318	4000
Insurance	795	800
Membership	1109	1400
Miscellaneous	211	150
Rent/Coffee	600	600
Schools/Libraries	0	2500
Telephone	120	60
Trailer	250	250
Unallocated Expenses	810	0
Total Expenses	7213	9760
Net	1240	

All income and expenses are within expected limits, telephone expenses were increased as the result of switching from a residential rate to a commercial rate in order to advertise in the Yellow Pages under the Clubs heading. The Unallocated Expenses will be reimbursed by Diablo Communications.

Membership Roster Update

By Jeff Straus, KE6QYM

David M. Fellom, KE6RFB, T
147 Upper Terrace, San Francisco, CA 94117
(415)-731-4516

Julie Kinsey, KF6MKD, T
1461 Lydia Lane, Concord, CA 94517

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1461 Lydia Lane, Concord, CA 94517

Gary Lech, WA6SFQ, A
135 Mountain Canyon Place, Danville, CA 94526
(510) 743-0902

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40 Foster St. #1, Martinez, CA 94553
(510)-228-6079

Bob Jernakoff, SWL
106 Sea Crest Circle, Vallejo, CA 94590
(707) 557-0336

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106 Sea Crest Circle, Vallejo, CA 94590
(707) 557-0336

Scott A. Miles, WB6PQM, A
P.O. Box 30935, Walnut Creek, CA 94598

On the Shortwaves

By Jerry Gardner, W6UV

It's been said that it's better to give than to receive. I suppose the ham analog is that it's better to transmit than to receive. Certainly a lot of users on our repeaters feel this way! As for me, I prefer listening to talking.

Those of you who work the HF bands probably spend most, if not all of your time confined to the tiny slivers of spectrum that constitute our bands. But there's a lot more out there than you may realize and many of you have the ability to listen in. Most new ham transceivers have general coverage receivers that cover 100 KHz to 30 MHz and are ideal for the kind of listening I'll describe. Don't worry if your antenna(s) don't cover this whole range, because it's just not that critical when receiving.

There are generally two kinds of activity to be found in the medium and shortwave bands: broadcast and utility. Broadcast consists of programs directed to large listening audiences and some of the larger broadcasters are well-known: the Voice of America, Radio Moscow, Deutsche Welle, and the BBC. Utility stations include everything not intended for the general public. This includes ship-to-shore, aeronautical, military, and beacon transmissions. Unlike broadcasting, utility communications are frequently two-way. Andrews Air Force Base working Air Force One is a typical example of two-way utility communications in the HF bands.

In addition to the readily identifiable broadcast and utility stations, there are also many clandestine stations whose identity and purpose are unknown. There are many so-called "numbers" stations that do nothing but broadcast seemingly random sequences of numbers or letters. Many have speculated that these stations are used by intelligence services, such as the CIA, Mossad, and KGB, to transmit instructions to spies in the field.

Also clandestine in nature, but not as mysterious, are the pirate broadcasters. Pirates broadcast programs consisting of anything from rock music and comedy skits to right and left wing political propaganda. Some of the colorful names used by these characters include Bill O. Rights, Sal Ammoniac, and Yabba Dabba Do.

The bulk of the traffic on the medium and shortwave bands is two-way utility communications. Some of the things commonly heard are ship-to-shore telephone calls, embassy communications, military operations, and Coast Guard search and rescue. Many modes are represented as well, including CW, SSB, AM, RTTY, and dozens of exotic modes never heard on the ham bands.

So take some time to tune around outside the ham bands. What you hear may surprise you!

MDARC General Meeting Minutes

July 18, 1997

President, Sam Lipson opened up the meeting at 8:00 P.M.

Vice President Cal Groom announced the speakers for the next meeting will be Barry Winkler KC6WYA and Sam Lipson KO6JR. They will speak on Packet and APRS.

Treasurer, Greg Estep KE6VTA, announced the balance of \$22401.00. Some first half of the year figures were: Dues \$7310.00, income. Expenses: Postage \$3318.00, Membership \$1100,

Misc. \$2000.00.

The Nomination Committee for New officers for both MDARC and RRRG will be: WA6CIE Chairman, AA6DL, KC6SOE, KC6JMN members.

The Classes will begin again on September 9, 1997, Pleasant Hill Adult Education Center, Pleasant Hill.

Field Day this year had many problems. Generator failed to start after running perfectly before taking it up on the hill. Some Antennas failed. Food was good, and generally weather was good, except on Sunday morning it was 48 degrees with 30 mph winds. Despite all this everybody had a great time.

The Races Database has to be kept up

to date. Every MDARC member that has not signed a new races card and checked with Mike KE6JGA to update his file must do so as soon as possible.

The MDARC needs someone to Volunteer to be a "Public Information Officer." This position would contact the Press and other Media to get the word out on the events the club is involved with. Contact Sam Lipson, KO6JR, if interested in volunteering for this position.

The Club now has a contract with Diablo Communications to keep our repeaters and antennas on top of Mt. Diablo. This is a renewable one year contract. The rent will be \$450.00 a month. This an increase from our previous rent of

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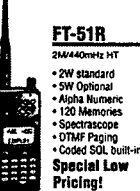


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\$125.00. It should be noticed that we have had no rent increases for over 10 years. There will be a 3% annual increase which is negotiable each year. The Company that will climb the tower to install our antennas has been contacted. It is anticipated that we will be up and running in three to four weeks.

On Monday August 4, The Board of Directors and the Steering committee of the Rocky Ridge Repeater Group will have a joint meeting at Emil Villas in Concord at 7:30 P.M.. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss how the two groups will work next year. Some possibilities are to combine both groups into one, or have MDARC be involved in contracts and financial, and RRRG in the Technical aspects. Everyone is welcome to come to this meeting.

A Motion was made by Dick Brown KT6X and seconded by Cal Groom KE6OEH to have the MDARC pay the increase in the rent for the repeaters. The increase for the remainder of this year will be \$1590.00.

The Membership voted to approve this motion.

PACIFICON 1998

A committee was selected to investigate having Pacifion 98 at the Sheraton Hotel.

The committee reported that the positive aspects of having Pacificon 98 at the Sheraton are:

More than double the exhibitor space. Larger and bigger Ban-

quet. More Forum rooms and better equipped. Swap meet could be held both Saturday and Sunday all day. Parking for those attending the convention is tripled. More room nights at the hotel. The club could experience up to 5000 to 10000 dollars more revenue.

The only downside to this proposal, is that it would take many more volunteers from the club to put this convention on at this location. The Sheraton needs a contract by August 1997 for this to happen.

A motion was made by Mike Paterson KE6JGA and seconded by Glen Zumwalt KJ6EN to hold the Pacificon 1998 convention at the Sheraton Hotel in Concord and to request approval of the Pacific Division for this to be a Division Convention. This motion was approved by the membership.

The Business part of the meeting concluded at 9:00 P.M. and the speaker JC Smith K0HPS on Solar cell technology. It was a very interesting talk.

Respectively submitted: Jay D. Caldis KT6Y Acting Secretary.

MDARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

July 7, 1997

The monthly meeting of the board of directors of MDARC was called to order by the president at Emil Villa's Restaurant in Concord on July 7, 1997, at 7:30 pm. The following mem-

THE BASE STATION

Your Contra Costa Ham Radio Headquarters

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bers were present: President Sam Lipson, KO6JR; Vice President Cal Groom, KE6OEH; Treasurer Greg Estep, KE6VTA; Emergency Coordinator Charles Arthur, AC6WU; Social Chairman George Roush WB6OFH; Secretary Donna Cook, KE6PPM; *Carrier* Editor Jerry Gardner, W6UV; and Directors Paul Dickey, N6JOX; John Stuart, KM6QX; Ed Ritchie, K6SFD; and Tom Seabury, KO6RO. Also present were Lauren Styles, WA6CIE; Fletcher Young, KI6RP; Richard Shappee, WA5HQJ; and Tracey Schwartz, KE6TOT.

The minutes of the June 9 board meeting were approved as printed in the *Carrier*.

Treasurer Greg, KE6VTA, reported a balance of \$23,800. The budget is on schedule as planned.

President Sam introduced Tom Seabury, KO6RO. Tom will fill the last remaining seat on the board, the term of which expires at the end of this year, in accordance with the revised bylaws. Members of the nominating committee thus far include Bruce Smith, KC6JMN; Dick Schulze, AA6DL; Jim Tittle, KC6SOE; and Lauren Styles, WA6CIE.

Relative to social events, Tracey, KE6TOT, is helping to organize the food. Since no one has volunteered to cook, the food will probably consist of sandwiches from Togo's. Tracey will check on the cost of catered barbecue, but the budgeted amount of \$400 will probably not be sufficient to cater. It was suggested that the picnic date be changed to Saturday next year, as there are a number of people who can never come on Sunday. George, WB6OFH, has talked with a caterer about the holiday party.

Pacificon Chair Greg, KE6VTA, and Richard Shappee, WA5HQJ, discussed a proposal to move Pacificon '98 to the Sheraton. The main factor to consider is whether the exhibitors are satisfied with the location, but additional factors are banquet prices and room rates. The Sheraton has access to an airplane hangar adjacent to the hotel, with ample room for as many exhibitors as possible to attract. The Sheraton has the largest convention facilities in the area. The swap meet can be held on the tarmac in back of the hotel, and the present location at the Willows may be jeopardized by the impending sale of the Benihana Restaurant. Lauren suggested that the Sheraton location could feature a golf tournament and/or a fly-in of the "Happy Flyers" group.

The motion was made and carried to accept the recommendation of the "Move Pacificon '98" committee, represented by Richard, WA5HQJ, to relocate from the Hilton to the Sheraton. Greg was asked to relay the motion to the current Pacificon committee and ask for the '98 chairperson's approval to move the convention. Forms should be submitted to the League as soon as possible.

Fletch, KI6RP, said that the trailer sustained minor damage coming down from Mt. Diablo on field day. The door needs to be repaired. Fletch is setting up the trailer to accommodate five stations. A vent was suggested for the roof. Fletch will continue working on it.

Field Day Chairperson Lauren Styles, WA6CIE, reported that this year's field day will go down in history as the Murphy's Law field day—anything that could go wrong, did. In spite of everything, Lauren volunteered to run it again next year. President Sam suggested that the field day event be co-chaired, similar to Pacificon, with the newer co-chair taking the lead in the second year.

President Sam announced that the July meeting will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, 1965 Colfax Street (Colfax and Salvio) in Concord. VE exams will be available prior to the meeting. The speaker will be JC Smith, K0HPS.

President Sam has received a number of postage due notices, in spite of the fact that he set up a postage due account to take care of the postage due items. He will get this straightened out.

Ed Ritchie, K6SFD, suggested that a member be designated to interface with the press. This person should contact the various local publications and get acquainted with the reporters to publicize our club on a regular basis.

The final Diablo Communications contract should be arriving by fax very soon, hopefully in time to act upon in the July meeting. Tom, KO6RO, suggested that we apply some creativity to the repeater situation, to become more competitive with CCRA in the future.

Charles Arthur, AC6WU, said that the Antioch Library, site of the QRP kit group meetings, has offered a display case for amateur radio items. Several members may have items suitable for display.

The *Carrier* deadline is July 26. Please note the new e-mail address for Editor Jerry: w6uv@wco.com.

The next board meeting will be August 4th at 7:30. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Cook, KE6PPM

...At Your Service

continued from page 1

toothbrush, etc.) is forgotten 60% of the time when a ham reports to a disaster area to help? I cannot stress too much that this is just an indication of our emergency preparedness. Let's get our act together!

Let's not beat ourselves up over this too much, however. Remember, this was practice and it was done so that we may learn from our mistakes. If we change our attitude and learn from this experience, anything in the future is possible. It was a great Field Day!

Wishing you all good transmissions, 73... Charles.

Ramblings from the Editor

By Jerry Gardner, W6UV

Administrivia

Most of the submissions I get for the *Carrier* are in Microsoft Word format. Unfortunately, there are so many different versions of Word that I'm finding it increasingly difficult to read all of the variations. If you use Word to write *Carrier* submissions, please save the article in Rich Text Format (RTF). Choose Word's *Save As* option and select rich text format (RTF) from the file type list. RTF format retains most of the formatting information, and it's format is independent of the version of Word used to create it.

My old email address and Web address are no longer valid. My new email address is w6uv@wco.com and the *Carrier* Web page address is www.wco.com/~w6uv.

Field Day

Too much has been made recently of the so-called "Murphy"-plagued Field Day operation. Sure, there were minor incidents, like the computer malfunction that caused us to lose the 2M log, but these were few and far between.

The few problems that did occur lent flavor to the operation. If anyone is to blame, it's Sol, not Murphy. Propagation varied from mediocre to rotten on most bands all weekend.

NETS

RRRG Nets

APRS Net Tuesdays 1930 Hours
 147.060/+ (100 pl)
 Net Control: Barry, KC6WYA

Phone Net Thursdays 1930 Hours
 147.060/+ (100 pl)
 Net Control: Jay Caldis, KT6Y

ATV Net Thursdays 2000 Hours
 Net Control: Mike Burke, KB6RMT
 Alternate: Sylvia, KC6YJV

Youth Net Thursdays 1900 Hours
 147.060/+ (100 pl)
 Net Control: Jeff Burke, KE6YAW

Contra Costa County Emergency Services HF Net

First Thursday following first Wednesday, 2000 Hours, 3.895 MHz. Net Control: Richard Shappee, WA5HQJ

Sheriff's Amateur Radio Communications Team

Clay Yale, N6YBQ
 (510) 228-8223

Contra Costa County ARES/RACES Nets

Thursdays, 1900 Hours

Central County 145.680 Simplex
 Jim Brunk*, N6BHX
 (510) 372-8248

East County 146.535 Simplex
 Jim Tittle*, KC6SOE
 (510) 432-3220

South County 146.355/+ (100 pl)
 Greg Nelson*, WB6MBD
 (510) 933-5381

West County 145.110/-
 Rich Parker*, KD6JCT
 (510) 237-2777

QSY to 147.735/- at 1920 Hours

Meeting of all County ARES/RACES Nets

Sam Lipson, District Emergency Coordinator, KO6JR
 (510) 229-5705

* Assistant District Emergency Coordinator

1997 MDARC Public Service Events

By Mike Patterson, KE6JGA

Date	Event and Location	# Ops	Ham Coordinator
31-Aug	Hekaton Bike Ride	6	Arnold Harding, KQ6DI
Sun.	Valley Spokesmen Bike Club		h 510-449-0966
	Dublin, Castro Valley, Martinez, ++		
20-Sep	Las Trampas Trailride	8	Joe Gregory, WA6DQN
Sat.	Las Trampas Stables, San Ramon		h 510-930-6889
	Oakland Hills, Redwood & Chabot Parks		

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 4	7:30 pm	MDARC Board Meeting	Emil Villa's, Concord
August 15	6:00 pm	MDARC VEC Exams	Our Savior's Lutheran Church 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette
August 15	8:00 pm	MDARC Meeting	Our Savior's Lutheran Church 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette
August 16	8:00 am	Pacificon General Meeting	Baker's Square, Concord Saturday following 3 rd Friday
August 29		September Carrier Deadline	
September 7	7:00 am-Noon	Livermore Swapmeet	Las Positas College, Livermore 1st Sunday every month
October 5	1:00 pm	Sunnyvale VEC Exams Gene Capener, WW6H, 510-254-5090	Consolidated Fire Training Center 2945 Treat Blvd., Concord 1st Sunday even months

The Carrier
Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 23222
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

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Address Correction Requested



MDARC Meeting: August 15



RRRG Contract Signed!
 Details on Page 2